

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05
SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 ITC-01
/087 W

-----250929Z 105652 /15

P 250800Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2518

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, CZ

SUBJECT: NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR STATISTICAL INFORMATION

REF STATE 85744

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT WITH CZECH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY TO FIND AM ZERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL. SINCE MEETING HAS UNCERTAIN DAAE AND PROMISES EQUALLY UNCERTAIN RETURNS, EMBASSY IS SUBMITTING PUBLICED STATISTICAL DATA ON CZECHOSLOVAK FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY.

2. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH CZECH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL. WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHEN MEETING WILL OCCUR AND ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT SUBSTANTIAL ANSWERS WILL BE OBTAINED. MEETING WILL NOT BE BEFORE APRIL 25 DEADLINE REQUESTED FOR REPLY.

3. IN INTERIM EMBASSY IS SUBMITTING AVAILABLE STATISTICAL DATA ON FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY. FIGURES COME FROM STATISTICAL YEARBOOK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1976 AND FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S FACTS ON CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN TRADE. 1975 IS THE LATEST YEAR COVERED IN PUBLISHED SOURCES.

4. PRODUCTION: FOLLOWING FIGURES REPRESENT THOUSANDS OF PAIRS:

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
LEATHER	59,628	60,537	60,746	59,685	60,215
RUBBER	14,754	14,412	13,835	12,163	11,805

OTHER	46,987	49,313	48,028	50,963	53,423
TOTAL	121,369	124,262	122,609	122,811	125,443

MONETARY VALUE OF FOOTWEAR PRODUCTION IS NOT AVAILABLE.
THE CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE PUBLICIZED THEIR POSITION AS THE
WORLD'S LARGEST PER CAPITA PRODUCERS OF FOOTWEAR.

5. FOREIGN TRADE: SHIPMENTS OF LEATHER AND RUBBER FOOTWEAR
ARE GIVEN IN THOUSANDS OF PAIRS IN THE YEARBOOK. FOR UNKNOWN
REASONS EXPORTS OF THE "OTHER" CATEGORY IN PARA FOUR ABOVE ARE
NOT SHOWN.

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
LEATHER	29,515	31,858	31,665	27,622	27,833
RUBBER	9,408	10,472	10,542	10,035	8,966
TOTAL	38,923	42,330	42,207	37,657	36,799

SINCE A MAJOR ELEMENT OF PRODUCTION IS LEFT OUT OF THE
EXPORT TABLE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE WHAT PORTION
OF TOTAL PRODUCTIO GOES TO EXPORT. CHAMBER OF COMERCE
DOES PROVIDE MONETARY FIGURES FOR TOTAL EXPORTS AS WELL
AS EXPORTS TO U.S. THESE FIGURES ARE IN THOUSANDS OF CZECHOSLOVAK
CROWNS (5.55 CROWNS EQUALS \$1.00 AT OFFICIAL RATE) AND REFER TO
SITC CATEGORY 851(FOOTWEAR). NO FURTHER BREAKDOWN IS AVAILABLE.

	1971	1972
"SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES	1,041,639	1,185,903
OTHER COUNTRIES	169,594	193,783
TOTAL	1,211,233	1,379,686

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1973	1974	1975
1,149,598	1,225,489	1,652,596
241,808	288,381	269,666
1,391,406	1,513,870	1,922,262

6. TRADE WITH U.S.: FOOTWEAR EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES(AGAIN
SITC 851) ARE GIVEN IN THOUSANDS OF CROWNS.

1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
33,603	32,553	31,539	31,263	20,771

THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEATHER FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY IS DEPENDENT IN LARGE
MEASURE (THOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW PRECISELY TO WHAT EXTENT) ON
IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS (I.E. CATTLE HIDES). THE LARGEST SINGLE
SUPPLIER OF THESE HIDES IS THE UNITED STATES. THE FOLLOWING
TABLE SHOWS IMPORTS (IN MILLIONS OF CROWNS) OF CATTLE
HIDES. THERE IS AN UNEXPLAINED GAP FOR 1971 AS THE TABLE
LEAPS WITHOUT NOTE FROM 1970VV TO 1972.

1970	1972	1973	1974	1975
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TOTAL	169	267	285	254	140
OF WHICH FROM US	33	86	143	70	44

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT IN ALL YEARS U.S. EXPORTS OF CATTLE HIDES DWARF U.S. IMPORTS OF FOOTWEAR. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT DRASTIC DROP IN 1975 OF BOTH U.S. FOOTWEAR IMPORTS AND CATTLE HIDE EXPORTS WAS DUE TO ADVERSE REACTION TO TRADE ACT OF 1974, THOUGH OTHER (UNKNOWN) EXPLANATIONS MAY BE APPLICABLE. ACCORDING TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE STATISTICS, 1976 CZECHOSLOVAK EXPORTS OF FOOTWEAR WERE BACK TO PRE-TRADE PROPORTIONS, OR ABOUT \$6.1 MILLION. IN FACT FOOTWEAR IS ONE OF THE FEW RELATIVELY BRIGHT SPOTS FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN ITS U.S. TRADE. FOOTWEAR IN 1976 (ACCORDING TO U.S. FIGURES) CONSTITUTED OVER 16 PERCENT OF TOTAL CZECHOSLOVAK EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES. U.S. EXPORTS OF CATTLE HIDES ALSO RECOVERED IN 1976 AS CZECHOSLOVAKIA BOUGHT (AGAIN U.S. FIGURE) SLIGHTLY OVER \$11 MILLION.

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7. FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY WAS TOUCHED UPON BUT LIGHTLY IN PUBLISHED DIRECTIVES OF THE SIXTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN. PLAN CALLS FOR 10-12 PERCENT INCREASE IN DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF FOOTWEAR BUT MAKES NO MENTION OF EXPORT. EMBASSY WILL TRY TO GET SOME IDEA OF INVESTMENT PLANS AND EXPORT PLANS IN MEETING WITH CZECH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND WILL REPORT SOONEST. MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF FYP IS, OF COURSE, TO BOOST OVERALL EXPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS SUBSTANTIALLY, ESPECIALLY TO HARD CURRENCY MARKETS.
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Message Attributes

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